

# LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

## Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **February 22, 2005**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 10

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Resolution of Support for a State Transportation Planning Grant for Region 2000**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the requested Resolution

SUMMARY: The Virginia Department of Transportation has made available \$1.6 Million dollars as part of a competitive grant program to fund transportation and mobility plans. The Region 2000 Regional Commission is requesting a resolution of support for a grant application that would fund a plan that addresses the relationship between transportation and land use. This plan would be done on a local level but would have regional considerations.

To make the grant application more competitive it is suggested that \$31,000 be shown as a contribution from the City of Lynchburg. This is the amount designated for the transportation element in the "Midtown" study. The Midtown study would proceed separately from the transportation plan, but its results would be incorporated.

PRIOR ACTION(S): N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

CONTACT(S):

Rachel Flynn/ 455-3902

Tom Martin/ 455-3909

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Resolution
- Frequently Asked Questions

REVIEWED BY: lkp

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Transportation has made funds available for Planning District Commissions throughout the state to perform transportation planning studies through the State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot Program, and

Whereas, these studies are intended to focus on number of factors, including the relationship between transportation and land use, transportation planning for alternative modes of travel, and prioritizing local and regional transportation plan recommendations, and

Whereas, increasing development growth and traffic volumes are resulting in increased pressures on local planners and planning commissions who do not have adequate transportation plans as part of their city/county comprehensive plans, and

Whereas, a comprehensive study that will address regional priorities while developing the local transportation plans is more effective than a single locality approach, and

Whereas, the Region 2000 Regional Commission is submitting an application to develop a detailed implementation plan for enhancing the efficiency of transportation throughout the region through a number of measures, including improved coordination between transportation and land use planning to support local comprehensive planning activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Lynchburg does hereby endorse the Region 2000 Regional Commission's submission of an application to the Virginia Department of Transportation's State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot Program for the development of a detailed implementation plan for enhancing the efficiency of transportation and land use planning for Region 2000 localities.

Adopted:

Certified:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

031L

**State Transportation Planning  
Grant Pilot  
January 2005**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What is the Transportation and Mobility Planning Program?**
- **Can the PDC apply for both the Rural Transportation Planning Grant and the State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot?**
- **Who is eligible to receive these funds?**
- **How much money is available?**
- **How much time will be allowed to do the work?**
- **Can the MPO or PDC use a consultant?**
- **What areas of study are eligible?**
- **Who administers the program?**
- **How does project funding work?**
- **How do I obtain this funding?**
- **How much could the MPO or PDC get?**
- **Who will make the selection and how?**
- **How will the applications be evaluated?**
- **What is the current status of the Program?**
- **Where can I get additional information or assistance?**
- **When will the successful grants be announced?**

**What is the State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot?**

The 2004 General Assembly created a state funded pool of money for planning activities to be accomplished within the Commonwealth. This program is being undertaken as a pilot program, with the intent to expand the program to additional participants and eligible topics in future years. The pilot will run for two consecutive years, with an analysis of the process, results, and products to be completed at the end of the second year.

**Can the PDC apply for both the Rural Transportation Planning Grant and the State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot?**

Yes, the PDC may apply for both, but may receive only one of the two grants for a project. Should both selection committees recommend the grant for funding, Administration will determine which will be provided.

**Who is eligible to receive these funds?**

This competitive pilot program is available to the Planning District Commissions and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

**How much money is available?**

VDOT has made available, \$1.6 Million dollars for the competitive program.

**How much time will be allowed to do the work?**

While there is no predetermined time constraint on the completion of the planning studies, time is a consideration in the evaluation of the applications. All studies should be undertaken in a manner so that they are completed in a timely fashion. A timeline or schedule may be included with the application to demonstrate the allowances for study task and ultimate study completion.

**Can the MPO or PDC use a consultant?**

A consultant may be used for portions of the study or the entire study. This should be indicated on the application. Appropriate procedures must be followed.

**How will the funds be administered?**

This pilot program is a reimbursable grant program. After a study/plan has been selected for funding, an agreement will be developed for the administration of funding. If the entity already has an acceptable agreement in place with VDOT, that agreement can be used. Invoicing by the recipient of the funds will be on a quarterly basis, and accompanied by a progress report. A VDOT Project Manager will be assigned to assist and monitor the progress of the effort. In most cases, this Project Manager will be the District Planner.

**What areas of study are eligible?**

The categories for the first year of the grant program are:

- Consideration of special transportation needs of unique sectors of the community
- Local transportation planning for alternative modes
- Linking transportation and land use
- Prioritization of local or regional transportation plan recommendations

**Who administers the program?**

The General Assembly allocated the planning funds in VDOT's budget. VDOT choose to develop the pilot transportation planning program. VDOT/TMPD will administer the overall program.

**How does project funding work?**

The transportation planning grant program is a State funded program, that does not require a local match. Local contribution, whether by local funds, or by a soft match, is encouraged, but not a requirement.

**How do I obtain this funding?**

Applying for the Planning Grant is a competitive process. This program looks for projects that produce products that can be used to enhance the transportation planning process, or can be used to link the transportation planning process with either land use or programming. The deliverables for this project should include an action plan which would be endorsed or approved by the local governing body, demonstrating a good faith effort of moving from recommendation to action.

**How much could the MPO or PDC get?**

The maximum funding for one grant is \$500,000.

**Who will make the selection and how?**

The grant applications will be reviewed by a grant selection committee made up of VDOT Local and State Transportation Planners and a representative of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. For any applications, which require insight to other modes other than those covered by these two agencies, additional agency representation will be brought in from the Virginia Port Authority and/or the Virginia Department of Aviation, as necessary. VDOT Administration will review the committee's recommendations and make the final decision. A copy of the evaluation criteria, which closely mirrors the application, is available.

**How will the applications be evaluated?**

The evaluation criteria closely mirror the application form. A copy of the evaluation criteria will be included in the application packet.

**What is the current status of the Program?**

January 2005 marks the introduction of the pilot program. After this initial year, the results of the program will be analyzed to determine the future of the program.

**Where can I get additional information or assistance?**

For more information on this program or to obtain an application package, please contact either your VDOT Project Manager or Brian King in Transportation Mobility Planning Division Transportation at 1-800-835-1203. In the Richmond area, please call (804) 786-3092.

The mailing address is:

Virginia Department of Transportation  
Transportation and Mobility Planning Division  
State Transportation Planning Grant Pilot  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**When will the successful grants be announced?**

The successful grants will be announced by May 16, 2005.